



President's Message

March 2017



Maria Brennan, DNP, MSN, RN, CPHQ
Chief Nursing Officer, Lourdes Health System
President, ONL NJ

Dear Colleague,

This year is shaping up to be an exciting one for healthcare, nursing and ONL NJ. In this issue of the *President's Message*, I will summarize some of the key initiatives ONL NJ is involved with and provide information on advocacy issues relevant to nurse leaders. I hope you enjoy reading this. Thank you for your membership and support.

Statehouse Happenings

By Sabeen Kalyan-Masih, Director of Public Affairs, Capital Impact Group

Governor Chris Christie recently delivered his final budget address before a joint session of the Legislature. His proposed fiscal 2018 budget calls for \$35.5 billion in spending, a 2.9 percent increase over last year. He made it clear that he will focus his remaining months in office on two priority issues: healthcare and public education.

Since its inception seven years ago, the Affordable Care Act (ACA) has led to a steady increase of New Jerseyans with health insurance. The Christie administration cited that this uptick of insured residents, along with the recent expansion of Medicaid, as justification to slash \$50 million in charity care reimbursements to hospitals. With the uncertain fate of the ACA in Washington, many fear that the plan to “repeal and replace” the ACA will result in twenty million more Americans without health insurance. Governor Christie did propose increasing funding for Graduate Medical Education programs by \$30 million. He believes that this will help address the shortage of doctors and nurses in New Jersey and proposed to utilize Horizon Blue Cross Blue Shield of New Jersey’s revenue surplus to annually fund services for the state’s most vulnerable populations who access Charity Care and Medicaid.

Education and how to fund the state’s broken funding formula is another priority of Governor Christie’s for his remaining months. The most recent iteration of the education formula, the School Funding Reform Act (SFRA), was fast-tracked through the legislature in 2008, and promised to deliver help to some of the state’s poorest districts. What resulted, however, was inequity across the state and severe underfunding. Now the governor has called on the legislature for serious reform, with 39 percent of the state’s entire FY 2018 budget to be dedicated to education spending. Within 100 days, the Governor has directed leaders in both parties to come to agree on a way to amend the funding formula, stressing the importance that this issue should be resolved by summer. Though the governor proposed his own draconian “Fairness Formula,” which would have gutted state aid to some of the poorest school districts in the state, he is now seeking to find a solution through the legislature, and promises to work with them in finding a successful agreement. The Governor, Speaker Vincent Prieto and Senate President Steven Sweeney were scheduled to meet the week of March 13 to begin discussions on this matter.

Governor’s Race 2017

Though twenty candidates have officially announced their campaigns for Governor, the five viable contenders are former Ambassador **Phil Murphy** (D), **Lieutenant Governor Kim Guadagno** (R), **Senator Ray Lesniak** (D), **Assemblyman John Wisniewski** (D), and **Assemblyman Jack Ciattarelli** (R).

Most Democratic organization support has rallied behind Phil Murphy, a former Goldman Sach executive who founded New Start New Jersey, a policy think tank focused on bold ideas to jump start the state’s economy. The Republican leading candidate is Lieutenant Gov. Kim Guadagno who has been slowly separating her policies from Gov. Christie’s, even having her slogan as “Better.” Senator Ray Lesniak, the second-longest serving member on the N. J. Legislature, had been previously enigmatic on whether or not he was running, but as an open critic of Christie’s, he felt that he had to run and be a “fighter for New Jersey.” Assemblyman John Wisniewski has served in the New Jersey Assembly since 1996 and was one of the first legislators that opened the Bridge-gate investigation, as well as a frequent critic of the current administration. Somerset Republican Assemblyman Jack Ciattarelli had taken a hiatus from his campaign to undergo treatment for throat cancer but he just recently announced that he is now cancer-free and back to campaigning.

Federal Advocacy

Public policy information on issues relevant to nursing and healthcare can be found on the American Organization of Nurse Executives (AONE) web site at <http://advocacy.aone.org/>. AONE issued an action alert

to members March 16 asking them to urge their local members of congress to not support the American Health Care Act. I strongly recommend you visit the AONE website.

Special Events

ONL NJ recognizes the importance to engage our partners in long term care and sub-acute facilities in order for all nursing leaders to be represented by the organization. The Marketing Public Relations Membership Committee developed a special program focused on issues impacting transitions of care, population health management and leadership. The committee decided to test the prototype in the Bergen County region.

The final product “**Partnering Across the Continuum of Care**” was held at The Valley Hospital March 21. Fifteen participants attended. Toni Modak, BSN, ICM, PCC, director of population health of The Valley Health System, and Dana Strauss, PT, MPT, presented the topic “Community Partnerships Supporting Population Health.” Participants enjoyed networking with area acute care hospital nurse leaders Deborah Zayas, RN, MPA, NE-BC, vice president of nursing at Holy Name Medical Center; Ramonita Jimenez, DNP, MPA, RN, NE-BC, administrator of Hackensack University Medical Center; Charles Vannoy, DNP, MBA, RN, NEA-BC, assistant vice president of The Valley Hospital; and Ann Marie Leichman, MSN, RN, NEA-BC, vice president and chief nursing officer for The Valley Hospital.

The afternoon presentation “Motivation by Appreciation” was delivered by Robert J. Phillips, PhD, EdD, MFA, LPC, corporate director of JFK Medical Center, and Sonya De Almeida, MSN, PGNP, BSN, RN, manager of Curriculum of Simulation & Organization Development at JFK..

I would like to personally thank Ann Marie Leichman for hosting this worthwhile event and all of the ONL NJ members who attended and those who presented. I am confident the participants have a better knowledge of the organization and its benefits to members. I understand three new members joined ONL NJ that day! I look forward to rolling out this program format in other areas of the state.

The Annual Meeting and Conference “NJ Nurse Leaders Igniting a Health Work Environment” April 20-21 at the Princeton Marriot at Forrestal promises to be an excellent program. Registrations are still available online at <http://www.njha.com/education/brochure/?id=768>. In addition to excellent topics and speakers, 24 posters will be on display. The Education Committee has worked very hard on this project and I would like to acknowledge the committee for this conference and all of the outstanding programs they have given us.

It is amazing to think that the ONL NJ Research Day Conference will be celebrating its fifteenth year. The Research Committee is in the process of finalizing the program. The keynote speaker is Nora Warshawsky, PhD, RN, CNE, NEA-BC, FAAN, associate professor at the University of Kentucky. Dr. Warshawsky will lead off the program with the presentation “**Nurse Manager Practice: What Factors Influence Nurse Managers’ Success?**” and in the afternoon she will present “**From Dissertation to a Program of Research: Insights from the Field.**”

Wendy Budin, PhD, RN will lead a discussion on civility. The topic of generational differences will be presented by Brandee Fetherman, MSN, RN, CCRN, SCRNP, nurse manager at Morristown Medical Center. Brandee will moderate a panel discussion on generational differences. The panelists include ONL NJ members representing several generations. The panelists are Derrick Lieb, nurse manager, The Valley

Hospital; Lauren Russo, clinical director, Monmouth Medical Center; Ann Marie Leichman, vice president and CNO, The Valley Hospital; Eleanor Irons, retired from Hunterdon Medical Center; and Katherine Hinic, assistant professor, Seton Hall University School of Health and Medical Sciences.

The Research Committee is accepting abstracts for poster presentations at the June 9 conference. The deadline is April 7 and the link to the online submission is on the ONL NJ home page at www.onlnj.org.

Nurse leader awards nominations are being accepted. There are two new award categories. The **Innovations in the Continuum of Care** will be presented to an individual for his or her leadership in implementing a project that has had significant outcomes outside of the acute care setting. The **Excellence in Advanced Practice Nursing Leadership Award** will be presented to an advanced practice nurse (APN) from any practice setting who demonstrates exceptional leadership, guidance and service to their institution or practice and to the profession. Nominees for these two categories do not have to be ONL NJ members. The deadline for nominations is August 18. All of the awards, the criteria and nomination forms can be found on the website at <http://www.njha.com/onlnj/about/nursing-leadership-awards/>. The awards will be presented at the Annual Holiday Awards Brunch at the Forsgate Country Club in Monroe Township. This year we were able to secure a Friday date. It will be held December 8.

Key Initiatives

The Nursing Workplace Environment Task Force (NWETF) was formed from the Advocacy Committee to address the workplace environment and the role nurse leaders can play to improve the environment. The task force began their work by evaluating the research. From this they concluded that giving staff nurses respected voice in the establishment of safe practice environments and creating a forum for participative leadership is key to improving the work environment. Staffing committees allow nurse care providers to have a voice in human allocation through a formal process with equal participation of staff in collaboration with management. The NWETF is currently finalizing a pilot program. The pilot program of staffing committees will be referred to as the Nursing Workplace Environment and Staffing Council (NWESC) pilot program. There are 11 hospitals participating in the pilot project. They include Jersey City Medical Center, Riverview Medical Center, Hunterdon Medical Center, Kennedy University Hospital – Cherry Hill, Kennedy University Hospital – Stratford, Kennedy University Hospital – Washington Township, Lourdes Medical Center of Burlington County, Our Lady of Lourdes Medical Center, St. Francis Medical Center, Capital Health Medical Center – Hopewell and Capital Health Regional Medical Center. The NWETF plans to collect data pre-and post-pilots. The task force is currently finalizing the education and toolkit for the participants of the NWESC program. The timeline for the pilots is to have them established and running by early 2018.

The ONL NJ has taken a leadership role in the state efforts of Nurses on Board Coalition's (NOBC). The goal of the NOBC is to improve the health of communities and the nation through the service of nurses on boards and other bodies. The NOBC has set the goal of at least 10,000 nurses on boards by 2020. Eileen Horton is the lead for this initiative. For more information contact Susan Cholewka, executive director, at scholewka@njha.com.

After the state budget is passed, we will move into full campaign mode in New Jersey. Every state legislator seat is up for election. Almost two years ago we established the ONL NJ Political Action Committee (ONL NJ

PAC). Your contributions will help us support candidates who support the interests of nursing and quality healthcare and who support the legislative priorities and mission of ONL NJ.

“The purpose of ONL NJ PAC is to protect and promote the safety and quality of patient care in New Jersey through political action. Contributions may be received and expended by the ONL NJ PAC for the following purposes:

1. For the support of excellent nursing practice to protect and promote the safety and quality of patient care in New Jersey.
2. Influencing or attempting to influence, through direct financial contributions, the nomination or election of individuals for public office at the State level who are in general agreement with the objectives of the ONL NJ PAC.
3. Influencing legislation at the state level.” *Article IV, ONL NJ PAC Bylaws*

Please download the contribution form from the website at <http://www.njha.com/onlnj/advocacy-policy/onl-nj-pac/> and send your contribution today.

Save the dates

April 20-21 Annual Meeting and Conference, Princeton Marriott at Forrestal
“NJ Nurse Leaders Enlightening a Healthy Work Environment”

June 9 15th Annual Research Day Conference
8 a.m. – 3 p.m., the Conference Center at NJHA, Princeton

Nov. 17 Nurse Leader and Aspiring Nurse Leader Program, the Conference Center at NJHA.

Dec. 8 Holiday Awards Meeting, Forsgate Country Club, Monroe Township

Thank you.

Enjoy the spring season!

Sincerely,



Maria Brennan DNP, RN, CPHQ

